

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE

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STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION ON THE SITUATION IN THE PERSIAN GULF

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, **H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf**, is closely following developments in the Persian Gulf region, which are marked by concerning incidents that is escalating tensions and undermining regional stability.

The AUC Chairperson expresses deep concern over recent attacks on critical infrastructure, including energy and transport facilities, which further heightened tensions and is threatening regional and global economic stability. He said that such these actions are disrupting vital supply chains and having far-reaching implications for international trade and energy markets.

The AUC Chairperson condemns any violation of international law, including infringements on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, and calls on all parties concerned to exercise maximum restraint, prioritise dialogue and diplomacy, and work towards a swift de-escalation of the situation, in accordance with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

The AUC Chairperson underscores that stability in the Gulf region is of particular importance for global energy security and the international economy, with direct implications for African economies. Rising oil prices and disruptions in trade routes are already affecting markets, including the export of perishables from Africa, while disruptions to airspace are impacting African airlines and travel connectivity.

The African Union Commission is closely monitoring the potential implications of these developments for the continent, including their impact on supply chains, trade flows, and the safety and wellbeing of African nationals and diaspora communities in the region, including those residing in Iran and across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

The AUC Chairperson calls for the protection of all civilians and urges that safe passage and necessary support be ensured for foreign nationals, including Africans working and residing in the Middle East.

The AUC Chairperson reiterates the African Union's commitment to international law, the peaceful resolution of disputes, and the preservation of international peace and security.

The Commission will continue to closely monitor the evolution of the situation.

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